

SALLY STACY MURDOCK

"Sally Stacy Murdock in company with her sons, Joseph Stacy and Nymphus Coridon, arrived in Salt Lake City, September 22, 1847, in the Ira Eldredge Company.

"Joseph was married, but at the time of the Mormon Battalion was sent to fight the nation's battles, he was appointed by those in authority to care for the cattle of these men while crossing the plains.

"Nymphus was fourteen years of age, and drove a wagon containing the family possessions. His team was an ox and a cow.

"Another brother, John Deans, had died of pneumonia contracted while driving the church cattle across the river from Nauvoo, when the Saints were driven out.

"Sally Murdock, a native of New Salem, Massachusetts, was a thrifty, energetic and and courageous woman and drove a light-one-horse wagon across the plains herself. Knowing they would need wool for clothing, she had the back of her wagon cut so three sheep could be led under it; and after a great many experiences was fortunate in bringing them safely into the valley. They probably were the first sheep to arrive.

"Many times she took the wool from the backs of the sheep, washed, carded, spun, dyed and wove it into cloth and made clothes for herself and others.

"A story told by Emmeline B. Wells, a dear friend of Sally Murdock's; When Sally came here she had nine beautiful pairs of fine wool hose in bright colors, some in design, and as a very special favor to her girl friends, she would let them wear a pair of her stockings to match a new dress, when they were going to a dance."

REMINISCENCES RELATED BY NYMPHAS C. MURDOCK AT HEBER CITY, UTAH

The one thing that characterized my boyhood was that I was always hungry. Mother would say, "Now Nymphas, you get down from the table. If you eat more, when you get to be a man you will have a big fat paunch of a stomach and that will never do." So I never did get so much to eat that I did not have the feeling that I would like to have more.

Another hunger I always had; I never could get people to notice me as I would have liked. I was always scheming ways to get someone to pay attention to me. When there was anyone in our house for a meal I would always pour so much pepper on my food that none of them could ever get by without remarking, "What a lot of pepper that boy puts on his food." Sometimes it was so very hot that I would be forced to crawl under the table to hide the faces that I was forced to make because my mouth was being literally burned out. However, I always considered it well worth while, for it never failed to make someone turn his attention to me.

When I grew to be as tall as a man, my stomach was still of great concern to me. Every Monday Mother cooked up a huge kettle of potatoes, and all week long we had warmed over potatoes for every meal. Personally I preferred to have my potatoes freshly cooked. One day I said as much to my mother, and it did not seem to move her in the least. So I threatened, "Mother, I am tired of warmed over potatoes. I want them cooked freshly every day. In fact, if you do not cook me fresh ones every day, I am not going to live here any longer. Either I get freshly cooked potatoes every day or I am leaving your house and going out to get me a wife, who will cook what I want."

"Very well, Nymphas," said mother. "That is exactly why I have been doing it that way. It is high time you did get you a wife."

In a great huff I cast about in my mind for a likely girl who would do things for me the way that I liked to have them done. I finally settled on Melissa Barney and went to her and put the proposition squarely up to her. Said, "Melissa, I have to have freshly cooked potatoes every day and mother refuses to cook them for me, so I have decided to get me a wife. Now you know that two strange hogs put in one pen do a good bit of fighting over the food and such, but I suppose that at first we would be like that, but we would get used to each other in time and would get along fine. Melissa, what do you say? Will you marry me?"

Melissa agreed to my terms and we were married before the week was out and have been happily married ever since.

From Ancestry M. Webb (Floyd) 9-10-91